

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on March 17, 2004, **JAMES SKORBURG**, age 46, of St. Louis Missouri, and **MICHAEL BARTOLA** age 45, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois in a two (2) count indictment charging them with Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, and the Medicare Anti-Kickback statute, in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b. The offenses each carry a statutory range of punishment of up to five (5) years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. The Indictment alleges that the violations took place from February 23, 2000 through July 24, 2001 in Swansea, Illinois, within St. Clair County, Illinois.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew J. Lay and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, and the United States Postal Inspection Service.